

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Sam Rabung, Director



Contact:
Nathaniel Nichols, Area Management Biologist
Natura Richardson, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 486-1840
Fax: (907) 486-1824

Kodiak Office
351 Research Court
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

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2020 Commercial Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of 2019 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries in these districts may occur when the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab meets or exceeds abundance thresholds and minimum guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established in regulation (5 AAC 35.507. *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategies*).

Kodiak District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for six sections in the Kodiak District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(1)(A–F)). A minimum of two sections must meet or exceed established minimum GHLs before a commercial fishery may open. In sections that meet or exceed the abundance thresholds, abundance must also be sufficient to provide for a GHL of at least 100,000 pounds per section and at least 400,000 pounds total for all open sections in the district. Based on 2019 Kodiak District survey results, the Eastside and Southeast sections exceeded regulatory thresholds necessary for a 2020 commercial Tanner crab season. **The 2020 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab GHLs will be 300,000 pounds in the Eastside Section and 100,000 pounds in the Southeast Section.** The Northeast, Southwest, Westside, North Mainland, South Mainland, and Semidi Island Overlap sections will remain closed for the 2020 commercial Tanner crab season.

Fisheries in the Eastside and Southeast sections will be monitored inseason and section or subsection closures may occur before GHLs are fully harvested based on fishery performance, harvest distribution, or high bycatch of non-target crab. Specific to the Eastside Section, localized harvest of legal crab in nearshore waters may require in-season subsection closures.

The Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season will open at noon January 15, 2020 unless delayed by weather. The 2020 Kodiak District Tanner crab GHL is less than 2,000,000 pounds;

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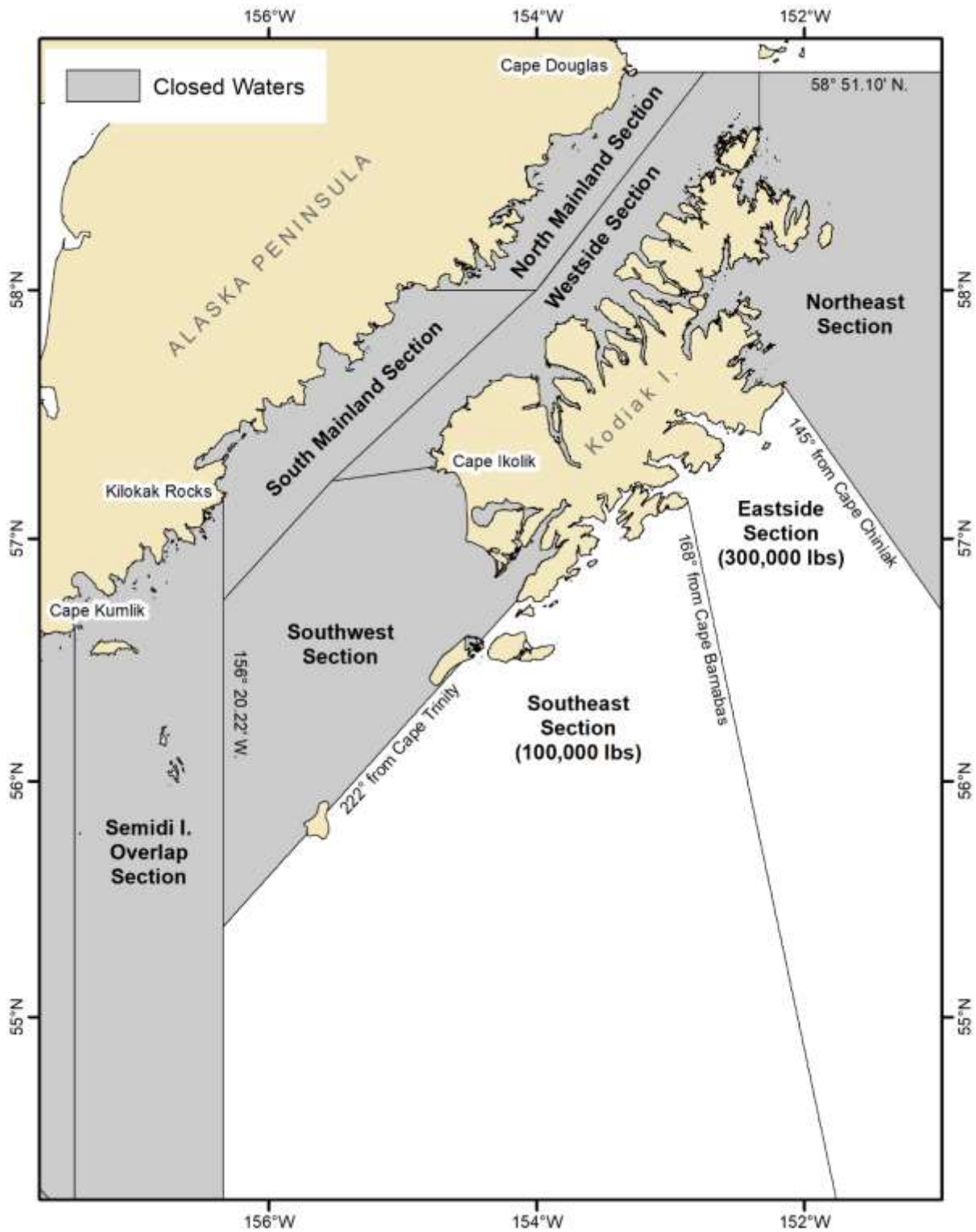
therefore, the regulatory gear limit is 20 pots per vessel. Additional information regarding buoy tags, registration, weather delays, inseason catch reporting, subsection closure scenarios, and fishery management actions will be provided in subsequent news releases prior to the season opening.

Chignik District: A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur in the district. The 2018 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab was above the regulatory abundance threshold but below the minimum GHL threshold; therefore, the Chignik District will remain closed for the 2020 commercial Tanner crab season.

South Peninsula District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for two sections (Eastern and Western) in the South Peninsula District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(3)(A and B)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before either section may open to commercial fishing. The 2019 survey abundance estimates of mature male Tanner crab were below regulatory thresholds for both Eastern and Western sections; therefore, the South Peninsula District will remain closed for the 2019 commercial Tanner crab season.

For additional information on Tanner crab harvest strategies or survey results, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

Open sections for the 2020 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season.



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